

A

# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

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Tuesday, November 1. 1709.

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I Never enter'd upon this Work, without a Fore-knowledge that it should offend some.—'Tis a dangerous Work in this Age, to tread near the Mis-carriages of Men in Power, but much more to those of Parties — Such it will ever be my Misfortune to offend — And as I am prepar'd to do whatever an honest Principle calls me to do, so I am prepar'd to suffer whatever Power and Oppression, when they have an Advantage, may be able to inflict.

I speak this, with Respect to the Clamour of the Town against this Paper, upon Account of its being presented at the Old-Baily with another Paper, (of what Kind I know not) as A NUSANCE.

Who it is complains of the Review, I yet know not — Who it is a Nusance to, I know very well, and I cannot foresee, but it will for ever be a Nusance to them — Either I must oppose the hot Party, the Jacobite Interest, the debauch'd Clergy, the vicious Magistrate, the Invaders of the Union, and those that abuse the QUEEN, in pretending her Authority for imposing Innovations on the Scots, contrary to her Majesty's express declar'd Intention, or I must cease to write at all — Now I cannot think, that a Court of Justice can be prevail'd on to prosecute, or a Grand Jury to present any such Design as this — as a Nusance; and therefore as I doubt not of Justice in all our Courts in England, where, GOD be prais'd,

our

our Laws are free and open for the meanest Subject; so I cannot think, that in the Prosecution of these just, and I think, most necessary Truths, I can meet with any Oppression from the Law; nay, I might think, I have Reason to hope for Favour rather than Oppression.

Not can I see any Reason to think, this Prosecution comes from the Government.—I am very sure, I have pursued the true Interest of the Government, in prompting the due Execution of positive Treaties, in setting Affairs in a true Light, in detecting the Fraud, and pulling off the Mask of Hypocrites, who say'd out of Oppression in SCOTLAND, where there was none; and calling that Prosecution, which was only a just and necessary Precaution against the Invasion of Jacobites.—I have apply'd my self diligently, to appease the Murmurings of the People against the Government, to open the Eyes of those that have been impos'd upon by the Enemies of the Government; I have wrestled with Doubting Friends and Implacable Enemies of the Government; I have expos'd my Life to Mobbs and Tumults, in pressing the Nations to unite under the Government—and yet am exposing it to the same Hazard, in preserving them in that Union now 'tw made.—I have presid'd a Peace of Parties in England, and a Peace of Nations in Scotland, in Behalf of, and in Obedience to a just and gentle Government—and am still earnest to persuade all People, to keep the Happiness this Government would assist them in, by an universal Union of Affection, in Spight of a Division of Opinion.—If in any of these I have offend'd the Government, then perhaps indeed the Government may be the Pursuers of this Paper; but it cannot be that these Things can offend the Government.

It seems plain also to me, that the Government is not concern'd in this Affair—They would not have taken so low a Step, as a Presentment of a Jury.—It must be Some-body, who not being able to bring the Government in to it, have apply'd themselves to this—popular Method, and think, perhaps they have some Advantage in a Conjunction of Party-Magistrates—

I hope, packing of Juries, and running down Men by meer Power of Voting, shall not revive upon me—The Law must have its Course, and every honest Man will find his Deliverance in it.

To moderate Church-men, or to reasonable Dissenters, to Men that seek Peace and pursue it.—To Men of UNION, Men of CHARITY, Men, that when they have made an UNION, are for keeping it; to Men that wish our Establishment free from Occasional Bills and oppressive Encroachments, That having united with Scotland upon fair, clear, and indisputable Articles, and no disadvantageous Ones either, are honestly content to perform the Contract, and not impose upon the People there.—To such Men as these, this Paper can be no Nuisance, nor, I hope, ever shall. As to particular Persons, of which I have yet seen no Names, who are aggrieved at any thing said in this Paper.—As I do not willingly give just Cause of Complaint, so neither, if any thing rash, or unadvis'd slips me, will I be backward to make Satisfaction.—Such need never move Courts of Justice against me; I have a Court of Justice within my own Breast, before which I will be convicted with the greatest Ease imaginable, and shall freely make l' Amende Honourable, where I do any Injury.—And if any Person, who may be offended at me, will not accept such a Satisfaction, I hope, no Court of Justice in England will be found, where Oppression shall be encourag'd, and Party-Pique be carry'd on in Form of Law.

Next give me leave to note the Particularity of this Prosecution. How many Papers have reign'd among us, during this late Liberty of the Press, full of Invectives, Reproaches, and Abuses; not of particular Men only; but of whole Parties of Men, and whole Nations.—And no Fury could be found to present them? — How many Jacobite-Writers and Rebeachers, have openly, and in almost express Terms, condemn'd the Church of England as Schismatical, call'd her Bishops Presbyterians, and the QUEEN Herself a Defterer of the Church &c.—And these were no Nuisance, no Fury presented them, no Court order'd them to be prosecuted. When the Judicatories and Church-Proceedings

ings in Scotland have been insulted here—and the Nation we united with infamously abus'd in England—No Fury was to be found to present them. But a Paper calculated to defend an injur'd People, to expose a furious Party, to detect a Jacobite Conspiracy, This, Gentlemen, is your Nuisance—It is very hard, and I doubt not in the Consequence will appear to be very partial, if not very unjust.

I cannot here, (neither is it worth the Readers while) enquire into what Persons of Worth this Paper may have reflected on. Indeed I have pointed at some of the Depos'd Bishops, and other Ecclesiasticks in Britain, who have frequently, neither with Truth or Modesty, attack'd the Church of Scotland, and who are now concern'd in the Innovations there—who ordain Ministers for the Church of England, and who exercise the Office of the Ministry, tho' Depriv'd and Depos'd by Law—and who several other Ways intermeddle in the Affairs of Scotland, with which they have no Right to concern, themselves: I hope, none of our Reverend Clergy will think this Coat fits well on themselves, or suggest, that I point at other than the said Guilty People; and if they prosecute we shall know them the better.

I have indeed told some melancholy sad Stories of the Debaucheries, Drunkenness, and Oaths of some English Clergy-men, who, I think, are a Reproach and Scandal, not to the English Church Discipline only, but to the very Name of a Protestant Nation; who since the Rulers of the Church do not think fit to set in a White-Sheet, secundum Ritus & Formulas Ecclesie Anglicana—I have caus'd to stand in my White Half-Sheet, (pardon the Pun) to be a Warning to others, and a Mark of Reproach, as they well deserve.

If it be a Nuisance that I complain of these Men; if these are the worthy Persons, they may easily remove it by reforming the abhor'd Practice—And till they do, prosecuting the Author of this Paper can have no other Effect—than to oblige him farther to detect their Crimes in his own Vindication; which it is very easie for him to do.

And now, Gentlemen—What is it this Author is to be prosecuted for—and what will you do to him? — He knows not, how to state the Case plainer, than it is here done; for Personal Affronts he asks all Meu Pardon—But for vindicating the Cause he is embark'd in, he cannot lay it down; it is the Cause of TRUTH and LIBERTY; the Nation stands upon it; the Union, the Revolution, the Succession, the QUEEN, the Government, They all stand upon it— And if all the World should abandon him in defending it, he will never abandon its Defence, while he has Life, and a Tongue to speak for it.

What have ye in England brought the Scots into an Union for? — And what was the Meaning of a Treaty before a Union? The First was, (at least I was told so, when I was encourag'd to move in that Affair in Scotland) that we might for ever be one Nation and one People, united under one Government, and having but one Interest. The Other was, to settle such Conditions, as by the Force and Nature of which, that Union might be fram'd and cemented upon just and equal Terms and Conditions, that future Strife, and the Causes of future Strife, might be taken away.

To what End was all this—but that the Conditions being punctually observ'd, the Union of Affection might remain, and be cultivated between us? — And why, Gentlemen in England should ye desire to break the Conditions? — The Scots did not seek the Union with you, but ye sought it with them—as I am Witness: Now it is obtain'd, the Scots do not seek to break it with you—as I also am Witness: Even they that oppos'd the Marriage, yet do not sue the Divorce; why then should ye seek to break it, by Innovations and Impositions, which ye solemnly capitulated against?

The Case here is very plain; it is no Reflection upon the Common Prayer, no Mal-treating the Church of England, to say, the Scots will not receive them— But ye have agreed, they shall not be impo's'd upon them, ye have confirm'd and recogniz'd their Establishment—Ye have bound yourselves

selves to maintain the Uniformity there,  
without any Alteration—and ye cannot break  
your Bargain.

Whoever he be therefore, who from England meddles or concerns himself with the imposing, introducing, or setting up the English Liturgy in Scotland, invades the Union, and as far as in him lies, breaks the Contract between the Nations.— And such, without reflecting upon Persons, deserve the general Abhorrence of all that seek the Peace of these Nations, and the Preservation of the Union.

If I must be prosecuted for this—I am ready to give up my self to the Law, whenever legally call'd—And since it become an honest Man to bear his own Burthens, and not to let innocent Persons be injur'd, and suffer for what is his own Act and Deed rather than theirs, I cannot but be an humble Petitioner in this Case; That if this Paper must feel the Resentment of the Age, it may not fall upon those that have no other Share in it than their Calling leads them to; for no Man shall suffer for me, if it is in my Power to deliver them, let the Consequence be what it will.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

This Day is Publish'd,

THE Monthly Miscellany, or Memoirs for the Curious, for June, 1709, Vol. III. Containing, A Catalogue of Fossils found in divers Parts of Kent. *Hortorum Anglicanorum Deliciae.* Of American Plants cultivated in our Gardens in England. Papilionaceous or Pea-Bloom Plants. Coniferous and Julliferous Trees. An Abridgment of Isaac de Pereyr's History of the Pre-Adamites; with Remarks thereon. Man a Self-determining Creature, Of Faith and Work: Of Justification, &c. Fragments of the Book of Enoch; translated from the Latin Version of Kircher's *Egyptian Oedipus.* Printed for John Woodward, in St. Christopher's Church-Yard, Thread-needle-Street; and Sold by John Morphew, near Stationers-Hall.

N. B. Those for July will be publish'd on Tuesday, Novemb. 15. And the Rest with all possible Speed.

THE United Creditors for Debts Contracted in the three last Reigns, that met formerly at Westminster, are adjourn'd to the Marine Coffee-House in Bircham Lane near the Royal-Exchange, where Attendance is given Six Days in the Week, from Eleven to Three, to receive Those that will unite with them.— They have discover'd the Ways and Means by which they hope to discharge these Debts, to Three of the most Judicious Creditors, and they have declar'd their entire Satisfaction both in the Quality and Quantity of their Funds.— Persons of Quality may be attended at their Houses without Charge, by sending a Note to the Coffee-House directed to the Solicitor for the Debts of King William, &c.

#### Just Publish'd,

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